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(19) **United States**(12) **Patent Application Publication**  
Sato et al.(10) Pub. No.: **US 2002/0002480 A1**(43) Pub. Date: **Jan. 3, 2002**(54) **APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR  
COLLECTING USED OFFICE SUPPLIES**

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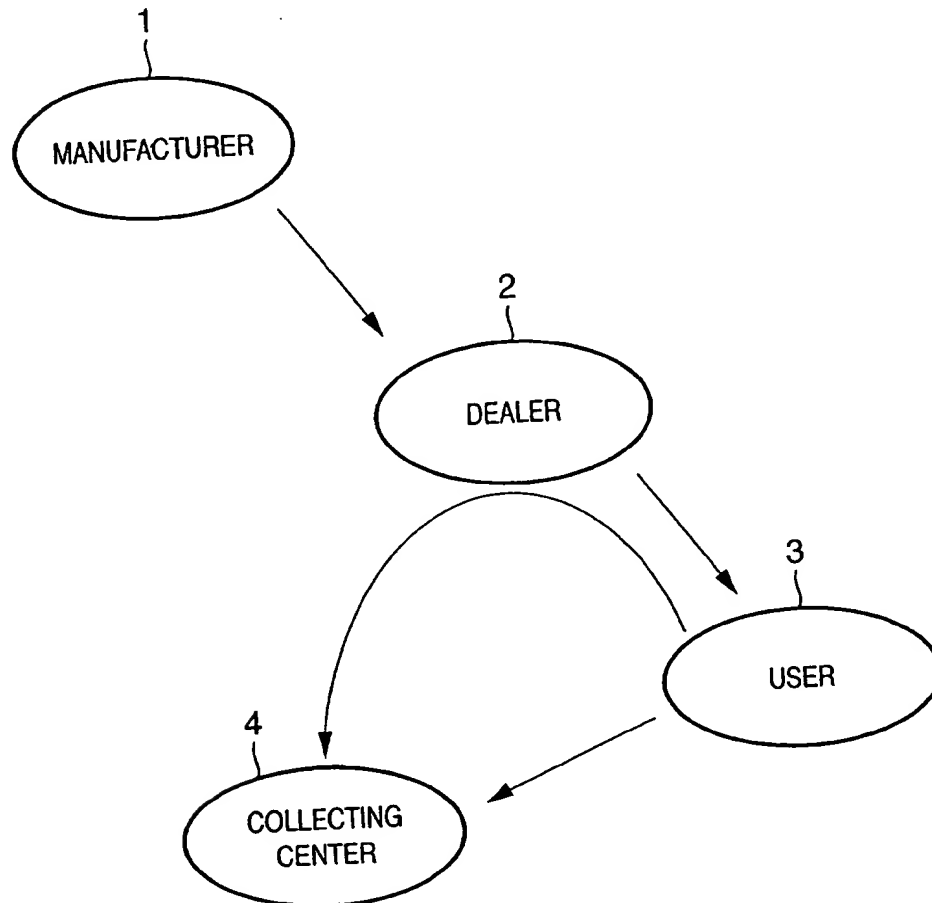
(76) Inventors: **Kazuma Sato, Kanagawa (JP);  
Yasuhiko Ono, Tokyo (JP); Nobuhiko  
Ando, Chiba (JP); Kotaro Takada,  
Chiba (JP)**(57) **ABSTRACT**

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Counting of data, namely calculation of collecting rate for respective users or kinds in a collecting center which collects various kinds of used office supplies is extremely complex and troublesome. For this reason, a client who requests collecting accesses a collecting system and requests collecting of the used office supplies. The collecting system stores collecting data of the kind and quantity of the used office supplies to be collected associated with users in a memory and transmits a collecting code corresponding to the collecting data to the client. The client generates a collecting slip including the collecting code received and dispatches the used office supplies with the collecting slip attached to the collecting center. The collecting center reads out the collecting code recorded on the collecting slip attached to the used office supplies dispatched and calculates the collecting rate for respective users and used office supplies based on the collecting code.

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Brief Description of Drawings Paragraph - DRTX (3):  
[0039] FIG. 1 is a diagram showing a flow of a toner cartridge;

Detail Description Paragraph - DETX (109):  
[0170] In such an LBP, the photosensitive drum 2217, toner or cartridge  
accommodated in developing devices 2219 to 2222, recording papers  
accommodated  
in the recording paper cassettes 2224 and 2225 are consumable supplies.